## EXHIBIT "A"

ES FREIGHT LINES, INC., : SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Plaintiff : LAW DIVISION – MIDDLESEX

: COUNTY

: DOCKET NO.: MID-L-

AERO FREIGHT, INC., SANDEEP

SINGH,

V.

CIVIL ACTION

Defendants

#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc., being a Pennsylvania corporation with a principal place of business located at 164 Eden Road, Quarryville, Pennsylvania 17566, by and through their undersigned counsel, Saxon & Stump, LLC, files the following Complaint in Civil Action, and in support thereof of avers as follows:

#### THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc., is a corporation with a principal place of business located at 164 Eden Road, Quarryville, Pennsylvania 17566.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Aero Freight, Inc. ("Defendant Aero"), is a corporation with a principal place of business located at 49 Carteret Avenue, Unit B, Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey 07008-1357.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Sandeep Singh ("Defendant Singh"), is an individual residing at 12406 Sutter Avenue, 1st Floor, South Ozone Park, New York 11420.

#### THE FACTS

4. On or about March 16, 2022, Plaintiff was the owner of a 2020 Volvo truck tractor with VIN No. 4V4NC9EH9LN223987 and a refrigerated 2012 Utility trailer with VIN No. DU533932 ("ES Trailer" or "ES Unit").

- 5. The events that give rise to the allegations complained of in this Complaint occurred on March 16, 2022, at the Ernie Pyle Travel Plaza, 7065 N 475 E, Howe, Indiana 46746 ("Travel Plaza").
- 6. At all material times, Defendant Aero was the owner of and in exclusive possession and control of a tractor-trailer combination ("Aero Unit").
  - 7. At all material times, Defendant Aero held title to and owned the Aero Unit.
- 8. Upon information and belief, at all material times, Defendant Aero allowed its employee, workman, agent and/or servant, Defendant Singh, to operate the Aero Unit.
- 9. At all material times, Defendant Singh was an employee, workman, agent and/or servant who was operating the Aero Unit in the course and scope of his employment and/or agency with Defendant Aero.
- 10. At all material times, Defendant Aero permitted Defendant Singh to possess, drive and use the Aero Unit.
- 11. At all material times, Defendant Aero had actual or constructive knowledge that Defendant Singh was possessing, driving and using the Aero Unit in furtherance of Defendant Aero's business interests.
- 12. At all material times, Defendant Singh was operating the Aero Unit in the Travel Plaza parking lot, when he failed to observe Plaintiff's tractor-trailer which was legally parked at the fuel island directly in front of him.
- 13. As a result of Defendant Singh's failure to observe Plaintiff's tractor-trailer which was legally parked at the fuel island directly in front of him, Defendant Singh negligently and carelessly operated the Aero Unit in such a manner which caused him to strike the ES Unit.

- 14. Solely as a result of Defendant Singh's negligent and careless actions as set forth above, a collision occurred.
- 15. The collision caused by Defendant Singh resulted in property damage to the ES Unit totaling \$11,617.37 in damages.
- 16. In addition, as a result of the collision, and consequential damage to the ES unit, Plaintiff was without the services of its trailer from March 16, 2022 until July 6, 2022, resulting in a downtime claim of \$160,040.
- 17. Damages in the amounts of \$160,040 in lost revenue plus \$11,617.37 in property damages have been incurred by Plaintiff.
- 18. On April 22, 2022; June 1, 2022; July 6, 2022; July 18, 2022; and July 22, 2022, Plaintiff's counsel corresponded with the Defendants' representatives/counsel requesting payment as a result of the damages sustained by Plaintiff due to the Defendants' negligent actions as set forth more fully herein.
- 19. To date, Defendants have not submitted any payments or provided any responses to the Plaintiff.

#### **COUNT I – NEGLIGENCE**

#### ES Freight Lines, Inc. v. Sandeep Singh

- 20. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 19 of the Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 21. At all relevant times, Defendant Singh owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's driver to use due care and caution in the operation and control of the vehicle Defendant Singh was operating.
- 22. Contrary to the duties of Plaintiff and Plaintiff's driver, Plaintiff Singh was negligent and careless in the operation of the vehicle Defendant Singh was driving.

- 23. The damages set forth herein were caused by, and were the direct and proximate result of negligence and carelessness of Defendant Singh in the following particulars:
- (a) Failed to have the vehicle he was operating under proper and adequate control;
- (b) Operated the Aero Unit at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances then and there existing;
- (c) Failed to keep a proper lookout for vehicles, including Plaintiff's tractortrailer, that were legally parked at the fuel island directly in front of him;
- (d) Failed to exercise reasonable care in the operation of the Aero Unit under the circumstances then and there existing;
- (e) Failed to pay sufficient attention to the roadway, vehicles ahead of him and his surroundings which resulted in him not being able to stop or slow his vehicle without striking a legally parked vehicle;
- (f) Was inattentive to the traffic conditions ahead of him and those generally present at the Travel Plaza;
- (g) Failed to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- (h) Failed to exercise ordinary care to avoid an accident which resulted in damage to Plaintiff's property and other consequential damages;
  - (i) Failed to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle;
  - (j) Drove in a careless manner;
  - (k) Failed to execute his turn wide enough to clear Plaintiff's trailer; and
  - (1) Being an inattentive driver; and

- (m) Traveled at a dangerous rate of speed in the Travel Plaza under the circumstances then and there existing.
- 24. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Singh's negligence and carelessness, Plaintiff sustained property damage and incurred other consequential damages and expenses associated with the collision caused by Defendant Singh.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc., demands judgment against Defendants, Sandeep Singh and Aero Freight, Inc. in the amount of \$172,021.37, plus interest, costs and such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT II – VICARIOUS LIABILITY**

#### ES Freight Lines, Inc. v. Aero Freight, Inc.

- 25. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 24 of the Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 26. At all material times, Defendant Singh was the employee, workman, agent and/or servant of Defendant Aero Freight, Inc.
- 27. The aforementioned motor vehicle collision and all of the resultant property damage and related expenses sustained and incurred by Plaintiff are the direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendant Singh.
- 28. The aforementioned negligence and carelessness of Defendant Singh occurred while acting in the course scope of his employment with Defendant Aero.
- 29. Defendant Aero is vicariously liable to the Plaintiff for Plaintiff's property damage and other related damages/costs.
- 30. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendant Singh, Plaintiff sustained property damage to its trailer, along with the other related costs and expenses as more fully set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc., demands judgment against Defendants, Sandeep Singh and Aero Freight, Inc. in the amount of \$172,021.37, plus interest, costs and such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

#### **COUNT III – NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT**

#### ES Freight Lines, Inc. v. Aero Freight, Inc.

- 31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 30 of the Complaint as though set forth fully herein.
- 32. At all material times, Defendant Aero owned the Aero unit which was being operated by Defendant Singh.
- 33. At all material times, Defendant Singh was operating the Aero Unit with the express or implied permission of Defendant Aero.
- 34. At all material times, Defendant Aero had actual or constructive knowledge that Defendant Singh was possessing, operating and using the Aero Unit.
- 35. On March 16, 2022, Defendant Aero maintained control over the Aero Unit and had the authority to prevent Defendant Singh from driving said vehicle.
- 36. Instead, on March 16, 2022, Aero negligently and carelessly entrusted Defendant Singh with their tractor-trailer when they knew or should have known that Defendant Singh was likely to use the tractor-trailer in a manner involving unreasonable risk of harm to others and their property.
- 37. Defendant Aero negligently and carelessly entrusted Defendant Singh with their tractor-trailer when they knew or should have known the Defendant Singh was incompetent to operate the tractor-trailer.

- 38. As set forth in detail above, Defendant Singh did drive the tractor-trailer in a negligent and careless manner, and caused damages to Plaintiff's trailer, along with other damages set forth more fully herein.
- 39. The aforesaid collision and damages to Plaintiff's trailer occurred as a direct and proximate result of negligence, carelessness and negligence entrustment of the Aero Unit on the part of Defendant Aero, as aforesaid and in the following particulars:
- (a) In negligently entrusting the aforementioned Aero Unit to Defendant
  Singh on or about March 16, 2022, when they knew, or should have known, that Defendant
  Singh was likely to operate the tractor-trailer in such a manner as to create an unreasonable risk
  of harm to others;
- (b) In negligently entrusting the aforementioned Aero Unit to Defendant Singh on or about March 16, 2022, when Defendant Aero know or should have known that Defendant Singh would operate the tractor-trailer in a negligent and careless manner; and
- (c) In allowing Defendant Singh to drive the Aero Unit even though

  Defendant Aero knew or should have known that Defendant Singh was incompetent to drive the tractor-trailer on March 16, 2022.
- 40. The aforesaid collision and all of the resultant property damage, and related expenses incurred by the Plaintiff are the direct and proximate result of Defendant Aero Freight, Inc.'s negligent entrustment of the Aero Unit to Defendant Singh.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc., demands judgment against Defendants, Sandeep Singh and Aero Freight, Inc. in the amount of \$172,021.37, plus interest, costs and such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL** 

Pursuant to R. 4:25-4, Lane E. Brody, Esq., is hereby designated trial counsel for the

Plaintiff.

**CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL** 

Pursuant to R. 4:5-1, the undersigned hereby certifies that at the time of filing this

Complaint, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any Court

and/or arbitration proceeding. I further certify that I am unaware of any other party who should

be joined in this action.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the

foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: July 28, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

SAXTON & STUMP

Lane E. Brody, Esquire

NJ I.D. No. 010032006

4250 Crums Mill Road, Suite 201

Harrisburg, PA 17112

Telephone: 717.941.1215

Email: lb@saxtonstump.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff, ES Freight Lines, Inc.

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# EXHIBIT "B"

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rinted on 3/23/2022 11:	15:08 AM				ISP TOLL ROAD 21, C	PRI ISP2100		
1. SINGH, SAN	DEEP; 2. SINGH,	KULWINDER						
Location I-80 125 RAMP D Crash Date 303/16/2022 Weather Condition CLEAR Roadway Surface ASPHALT	Day of Week Wednesday Light Condition DAYLIGHT Surface Condition DRY Construction Type	Crash Time <b>09:43</b>		County LAGRANGE Date of Report 03/16/2022 Locality RURAL Roadway Class fication INTERSTATE Roadway Juncton	Township LIMA Letitude 41.74712490 Inside Corporate Limits? NO Reitroad Crossing #	City HOWE Longitude -85.32937939 School Zone Train or Rail Equipment Rumble Strips		
Construction Zone				NO JUNCTION INVOLVED		Deer		
0945 Type of Crash	1013 IMPI Other Location of Investigati AT SCENE ONLY Agency ISP TO	ary Factor ROPER TURNING on OLL ROAD 21	(Unit 1)  Investigation Complete	Photos taken ID Number 9753 5032	NO Total Estimate of all damage in Crash \$10001 TO \$25000			
Driver 1 (Sandeep Singh) stated that he was circling the west end of 7 north travel plaza to find an open gas pump. As he was turning the corner of the north most gas pump he noticed V2/T2 was parked and but collided with V2/T2. He then stated after the collision he made contact with the other driver and waited for a report.  Driver 2 (Kulwinder Singh) stated that he was parked at the north most gas pump on the west side of 7 north travel plaza. He began to pump gas for V2 and stepped back into his cab to wait unit his tank was full. While he was in his cab he stated he felt a collison, made contact with the other driver and waited for a report.  Based upon my investigation it was determined that driver 1 miscalculated the the length of his trailer while attempting to maneuver around V2. The trailer of V1 then struck the rear of trailer 2 resulting in damage. D1 is at fault for the crash. Due to T1A damge, it remained on								
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Address 12406 SUTTER PARK, NY 1142		DOB	Age <b>22</b>	Gender <b>M</b>	Address 570 W DEKA KING OF PRU		APT 311	DOB Age 43	Gender <b>M</b>
Driver's License Nur 196-7000-122	nber Lic Type CD	Lie 8 <b>NY</b>	State	CDL Class <b>A</b>	Driver's License N 32-455-580		Lic Type <b>CD</b>	Lic State PA	CDL Class
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AERO FREIGH		MMAN ST RET, NJ 07008			ES FREIGHT L	n4E9 INC	164 EDE QUARRY	VILLE, PA 17566	
		/ehicle informa	tion					ehicle Information	
Carrier's Name		Address (Str		itate, Zip)	Carrier's Name			Address (Street, City,	State, Zip)
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### Indiana Officer's Standard Crash Report Hit and Run 904002314 Local Id 0 0 Page 4 of 4 202200122346 ISP TOLL ROAD 21, ORI ISP2100 Printed on 3/23/2022 11:15:08 AM CAD: 202200122346 Date/Time: 03-16-2022 / 0943 A.M. EST Location: I-80 Toll Road 125.8 IMM WB (7 North Rest Area Ramp D) D1: Sandeep Singh V1: Bittle: 2022. Kenworth T1A: White: 2017. Utility D2: Kulvinder Singh V2: White: 2020. Volvo T2A: White: 2012. Utility Investigator Trp Sharp PE 9753 INDIANA STATE POLICE- District 21 Ņ Not To Scale GAS PUMP V1/T1A

**End of Report** 

- 9. Corporate citizenship is determined by the corporation's state of incorporation and its principal place of business. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).
- 10. Defendant, Aero Freight, Inc. is also a corporation having a principal place of business located in Carteret, New Jersey and is, therefore, a resident and domiciliary of the State of New Jersey. [See Exhibits "A" and "B."].
- 11. Defendant, Singh, resides and is a domiciliary of the State of New York. [See Exhibits "A" and "B."].
- 12. The civil action is between citizens of different states and is a civil action over which the District Courts of the United State have original jurisdiction by virtue of diversity jurisdiction granted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 13. Diversity jurisdiction also requires that the amount in controversy exceed \$75,000.00, and that the action is between citizens of different states. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (a), (a)(1).
  - 14. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.00. [See Exhibit "A."].
- 15. This Notice of Removal is timely filed, under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because the Complaint was received by insurance representatives of the Aero Defendants on or about August 3, 2022 and thereafter to the undersigned counsel on or about August 23, 2022, and this Notice of Removal is filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Complaint and within one year of the commencement of the action.
- 16. Concurrently with this Notice of Removal, and in accordance with 28 U.S.C, the Aero Defendants will issue written notice to Plaintiff by contemporaneously serving a true and exact copy of this Notice of removal with Exhibits.

17. By the filing of this Notice of Removal, the Aero Defendants do not waive any defenses, counterclaims and/or cross0claims available to them.

18. The Aero Defendants specifically reserve the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendants, Aero Freight Inc. and Sandeep Singh, respectfully request that this civil action be removed to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, that this Court assume jurisdiction of this civil action, and that this Court enter such other and further orders as may be necessary to accomplish the requested removal and to promote the ends of justice.

Respectfully submitted,

FLORIO PERRUCCI STEINHARDT CAPPELLI TIPTON & TAYLOR, LLC

BY:

Susan A. Lawless, Esquire
Attorney for Defendants, Aero Freight, Inc.
and Sandeep Singh

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Dated: August 31, 2022